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The Corporation of the Municipality of
Central Elgin

450 Sunset Drive, 1st Floor, St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 5V1 P: 519.631.4860 F: 519.631.4036

***Notice of Designation of Property pursuant to Section 29 of the
Ontario Heritage Act
Former St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital – 467 Sunset Drive***

TAKE NOTICE that on the 8th day of April, 2019, the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin passed By-law 2356 to designate buildings B12120, B12123, B12124, B12125, B12126, B12127, B12128, B12129, and B17901 within the former St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital complex, located on property known municipally as **467 Sunset Drive** and legally described as **Part of Lot 4, Part of Lot 5, Part of Lot 6 and Part of Lot 7, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Yarmouth, Municipality of Central Elgin**, to be a property of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18.

DATED at the Municipality of Central Elgin this 16th day of April, 2019.

Donald N. Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer & Clerk

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
APR 19 2019
RECEIVED





The Corporation of the Municipality of

Central Elgin

BY-LAW 2356

Being a By-law to Designate a Property known Municipally as 467 Sunset Drive
(Former St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital) to be of Cultural Heritage Value
or Interest

WHEREAS section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, authorizes Council to pass a by-law designating a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS our Municipal Heritage Committee has recommended that the property known municipally as 467 Sunset Drive is of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS Council believes the property known municipally as 467 Sunset Drive meets one or more of the criteria prescribed by Ontario Regulation 9/06;

AND WHEREAS Council has given notice of its intention to designate the said property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest as required by section 29 of the said Act;

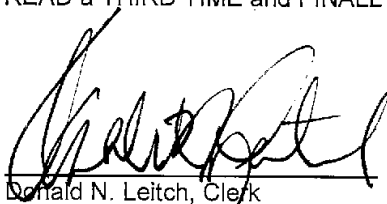
AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the designation of the said property was served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

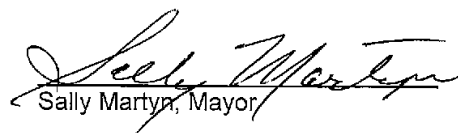
NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Property known municipally as 467 Sunset Drive, and more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, is hereby designated as a property of historic and architectural value.
2. The statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest and the description of the heritage attributes of the property are as set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized:
 - a) to cause a copy of the by-law together with the statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest and description of the heritage attributes of the property,
 - b) to be registered against the property affected in the proper land registry office,
 - c) to be served on the owner of the property and the Ontario Heritage Trust,
 - d) and publish a notice of the by-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

READ a FIRST and a SECOND TIME this 8th day of April, 2019.

READ a THIRD TIME and FINALLY PASSED this 8th day of April, 2019.


Donald N. Leitch, Clerk


Sally Martyn, Mayor

SCHEDULE "A" to BY-LAW 2356

The lands subject to this By-law are legally described as:

Firstly: PIN 35245-0154, being Part of Lots 6 and 7, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Yarmouth, designated as Parts 8-14, Plan 11R-7231 (now referred to as Parts 1-8 (inclusive), Plan 11R-10191), Municipality of Central Elgin; subject to an easement more particularly described in Instrument No. CT90081;

Secondly: Part of PIN 35245-0004, being Part of Lots 4 and 5, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Yarmouth, designated as Parts 9-14 (inclusive) and Parts 16-22 (inclusive), Plan 11R-10191, Municipality of Central Elgin; subject to an easement more particularly described in Instrument No. CT90081; and

Thirdly: Part of PIN 35245-0152, being Part of Lot 4, Concession 6, in the Geographic Township of Yarmouth, designated as Parts 23-33 (inclusive) and Parts 46-50 (inclusive) on Plan 11R-10191 Municipality of Central Elgin; subject to an easement as more particularly described in Instrument No. CT90081

SCHEDULE "B" to BY-LAW 2356

Historical Significance - St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital Complex DESIGNATION OF PROPERTY – 467 SUNSET DRIVE, MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL ELGIN

The St. Thomas the Psychiatric Hospital Complex is a 71-hectare site with interconnected buildings at its western end and supporting agricultural land stretching to the east. The complex was designated a heritage resource in 2007.

The proposed designation under section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, applies to buildings B12120, B12123, B12124, B12125, B12126, B12127, B12128, B12129, and B17901 within the Complex, as shown on the attached plan.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE AND INTEREST

Both the architecture and the landscape of the Complex are in an early modernist style, reflecting its mid-20th Century origins.

The most significant feature of the site is the quality of its design and craftsmanship. The complex owes its origins to a collaboration between architect William Lyon Somerville; Minister of Highways and Public Works T.B. McQuesten; and Premier Mitchell Hepburn. These three were reshaping the landscape of southern Ontario with major projects such as the QEW. Of the many buildings and institutions Somerville designed, the St. Thomas the Psychiatric Hospital Complex stands out for its scale, the sophistication of its plan and design, and the quality of its materials. The complex is one of the best surviving and most intact examples of Somerville's work. The complex also stands as an excellent example of Ontario's inter-war public architectural program that was seeking to upgrade its medical institutions and provide modern services in up-to-date facilities.

The Complex, with its long spines, supporting the administrative and medical services, and pavilion wings, reflects a disciplined application of Beaux-Arts planning principles, adapted to meet contemporary needs for flexibility and future expansion.

St. Thomas the Psychiatric Hospital Complex was ambitious in scale and modern in intention, setting the model for mental health centres in the province for the next 30 years. It was built in 1937-39 and, although immediately taken over by the Department of National Defence for use as a flight training centre during the Second World War, it reverted to a psychiatric hospital immediately after the war.

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES - EXTERIOR

The placement, setback and orientation of buildings B12120, B12123, B12124, B12125, B12126, B12127, B12128, B12129, and B17901 from Sunset Drive are in an early modernist style, reflecting its mid-20th Century origins.

The exterior walls are clad in limestone with deposits of crinoids and fossils, giving the stone surface a warmth and texture. The colour of the building is golden brown and blends well into the green farmland and wide blue sky of the landscape. All of the materials used in this building are top quality: fine grained and dimensionally stable limestone; copper roof flashing and roof details, steel windows, detailed carvings and attention to detail everywhere. In fact, what makes this building not just good but excellent is its range of bas-relief carvings, which range from architectural details to animal scenes.

Balance and symmetry is carried through from the overall organization of the site to the smallest details of the interior layout and finish, from the design of reception rooms and corridors to the details of fenestration patterns and wall finishes. Every component is consistent with the conception of the whole, and many of these components were custom designed for this project.

The modernist Art Deco design is reflected in the use of clean elegant surfaces such as terrazzo, ceramic tile, glass block, and glazed brick, together with a subtle but strong palette of colours. The stepped façade and low massing, emphasis on the horizontal, chevrons, stepped pillars and moldings are all details of this style. References to nautical themes like porthole windows, wave designs, upper levels like ship huts are also referenced. Corner-wrapped windows, circular bow windows are also common traits used in Art Deco. This building reflects the more classical undercurrents within this style: balance and symmetry, with classical details like volutes and pillars.

The exterior stonework is of high quality, with its own variety of modernist details and an important series of bas-relief sculptures. Some of the original metal windows and screens have been replaced, but the surviving elements show the same level of quality in both design and execution.

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES - ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

A 2008 Conservation Plan commissioned by the Ontario Realty Corporation suggested that the administration building and the related wings have very good to excellent heritage value, primarily because of their architectural design, craftsmanship, and landscape setting.

The Administration Building is a one storey rectangular building with a central core that is two storeys, built of ashlar-cut limestone with great attention to detail. The roofing has been replaced, and aluminum flashing is visible. There are all the Art Deco details, including a stepped back façade, low massing with projecting storey above, stepped pillars, porthole windows. The overall shapes of the windows have been maintained but the windows themselves are recent replacements. Some of the original wave-shaped window grill still appear. On the surface above the front door is the first of the many carved details.

The foyer includes stepped ceilings, an octagonal shape, patterned terrazzo, shining red brass and glass brick combine to create a space that was modern and authoritative. The finishes in this space are mostly intact, with modifications to allow for security.

PHOTOS



West façade, Administration Building



Foyer ceiling



View to north



Terrazzo floor

MAP



Administration Building	B12120
Erie Building	B12123
Huron Building	B12124
Administration II	B12125
Medical Building	B12126
Dining Hall & Kitchen	B12127
Elgin Norfolk Building	B12128
Tri-Country Building	B12129
MOHLTC Kitchen Stores	B17901

Adapted from the October 2008 Conservation Plan commissioned by the Ontario Realty Corporation from Julian Smith & Associates Architects, Wendy Shearer Landscape Architect, Jacqueline Hucker, Carolyn Samko, Rosi Zirger, Sandy Smallwood, and Andrex Holdings.